

Mr. Dan Jewell
Area Manager
Montana Area Office
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
2900 4th Avenue N.
P.O. Box 30137
Billings, MT 59107-0137

Dear Mr. Dan Jewell;

Re: Public Input to the Oct 12, 2006 MTAO USBR Mtg

We appreciate this opportunity to respond regarding management of Bighorn Lake. Friends of Bighorn Lake represent hundreds of families and businesses in Montana and Wyoming as stakeholders in Bighorn Lake. We are dedicated in supporting Darrell Cook and his efforts to return BHCNRA back to its original congressional intent. The loss of over 200,000 visitors a year from all over the world plus our own losses drives us to be focused in this effort for the fair and balanced water management of Bighorn Lake. We support that all stakeholders needs be determined and included in your decisions. We would encourage consistent and regular public input be sought before management decisions are made. We thank you for this beginning effort.

A: A lake elevation of at least 3620 ft

- 1) for sauger and walleye spawning in April and May since the silt in the flats is now over 3617 ft.
- 2) for boat launching at Horseshoe Bend May thru Labor Day weekend.
- 3) for ice fishing thru the ice-on-period (Nov to mid March)

B: A lake elevation of 3640 ft

- 1) for flatwater recreation at the south end of the lake, Memorial day thru Labor Day weekend in order to cover most of the vegetative growth currently there
- 2) to kill over 10,000 acres of salt cedar that uses up to 40 gallons of water per plant per day.
- 3) for maximum silt retention in the flats south of the causeway which will greatly reduce the silt moving into Horseshoe Bend and beyond.

C: A lake elevation that covers the south end of the lake for a resting area for migrating water fowl, September thru November.

We are confident you will consider our input in a fair and balanced manner.

It's a NEW DAY at Bighorn Lake !!!

Friends of Bighorn Lake

Robert E Croft Ken Grant Directors